

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
(ADA) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

June 18, 2004
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS: Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Jose Luis Barraza, Carol Casey, John Ramirez, Shirley Harper, Jan Carmichael, Mary Beth Randall, Jan Kafton, Shirley Garrett, Alex Morrow, Russ, and Marilyn Jost (via phone).

CITY STAFF: Jon Elam, Stella DuBois, Claudine Randazzo of the Public Works Department, and Johnny Nelum with Parks and Recreation.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Self introductions were made. The April 16, 2004 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Member Items Not on Agenda

- Shirley Garrett inquired as to the status of the City's investigation of a traffic signal at San Jose and Gates. Jon Elam would check with Lisa Wallis of Traffic and investigate.
- Jan Kaftan reminded the Advisory Council that there is no ADA Advisory Council meeting in July. The next scheduled meeting is August 6, 2004.
- Alex Morrow inquired as to what needed to be done to have a 30 foot mobile storage shed moved from it's present location at the Fresno County Fairgrounds at the corner of Maple and Butler Avenues. The shed is obstructing visibility both for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Jon Elam took notes but indicated this would be the responsibility of the County of Fresno.
- Jan Carmichael announced the Department of Rehabilitation is sponsoring a Technology Fair on August 11, 2004, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Manchester Work Force Connection, Conference Rooms 208 & 209, directly across from the Food Court at the Manchester Mall.

Jan also inquired as to the status of the crosswalk at "O" and Mariposa where the issue was pedestrian safety.

- Jose Luise Barraza spoke on behalf of a CIL client who complained of the bus stop sidewalk located at Dakota and First. The bus is not able to extend the wheelchair lift. The client must then travel to a bus stop further away. Jon Elam stated this issue should be brought to the attention of FAX, Dean Russ specifically.

Jose also brought up concerns of the housing shortage affecting the disabled community. Considerable discussion ensued. Jon Elam addressed the issue stating the appropriateness of the ADA Advisory Council meeting with the City's Housing and Redevelopment Commission. The Commission is established to oversee housing issues with distribution of housing funds received by the City, etc. Jon would secure a copy of the City's consolidated housing plan and would speak with Crystal Smith. who works in that area. Jon suggested she be invited to the August meeting to discuss what the City is doing with resources and if the issue of housing for the disabled is bring appropriately addressed. Jon would also invite Michael Sigala, the City's Housing Project Manager, to attend and discuss the City's housing initiatives and where disability issues fit in.

- Ed Eames proposed the ADA Advisory Council support interest in pushing forward the recommendation made by Supervisor Susan B. Anderson and Supervisor Juan Arambula at the last Measure “C” mediation session. The point of agreement would be to reconstitute the Fresno County Transportation Authority which handles all major transportation issues and is highly involved in public transportation, pedestrian, bike trails, etc. which would be directly elected by the population rather than be appointed and consist of elected officials. The ADA Advisory Council believes a new Measure “C” is needed. Toni Eames moved that the proposal be accepted. Shirley Garrett seconded the motion. The new Measure “C” recommendation was approved unanimously. Ed Eames is to draft a letter to Mayor Autry. (*County of Fresno Letter Attached*)

Downtown Curb Cut Report

Jon Elam reported the two FSU interns (Carol and Brian) have been working on the Downtown curb cut project. They are putting the paper work together. Every intersection will have a picture as well as a design and narrative of where it's located so the Council would be in a position to rank all the corners as well as figure out the overlay of the main pedestrian walkways in the Downtown area. This project was birthed by last year's Disability Awareness Day effort.

Secondly, Jon reported the City ended up with just under 300 curb cuts in FY '04 budget. The shortfall of the 300 curb cuts will be made up by the funding of the No Neighborhood Left Behind project. Jon suggested Joe Bain be invited to a future meeting to give us a status report on the City's progress. Additional discussion ensued on various sidewalk issues.

It was decided that at the August meeting of the Advisory Council the subject of Affordable and Accessible Housing would be discussed. Questions would be formulated and distributed in advance of the meeting to City staff of the representing department, to avoid tossing out questions that staff is not in a position to answer at a moments notice. At the September meeting a similar strategy would be utilized for the No Neighborhood Left Behind project. Ed Eames, Jose Luis Barraza, Marilyn Jost, and Stella DuBois would coordinate the series of questions for distribution.

Jose Luis Barraza suggested that the ADA Advisory Council send a bouquet of flowers and “thank you” card to Renena Smith of the City's Finance Department for putting the monies in the budget to begin the facilities evaluation.

Self-Evaluation Report

Jon Elam introduced Claudine Randazzo as the new ADA Advisory/City of Fresno intern. Claudine said a few words and indicated she would be working on the Self-Evaluation Report and she and Marilyn would be working to update the ADA Brochure. Claudine will be responding to the ADA Hotline issues as well as move forward on any other outstanding concerns.

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Jose Luis Barraza gave an extensive update of the various exhibits and festivities in the works. He also announced that the planning meetings are being held at the Fresno Fairgrounds. Jose fielded questions from the members.

City Council Workshop Strategy

The workshop with the Fresno City Council is scheduled and confirmed for **Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.** Part of the purpose of the workshop is to make the City Council aware of the ADA Advisory Council's existence relaying a list of accomplishments and bring to their attention the issue of accessible housing, employment and any other issue affecting the disabled community. Jon and Ed will draft a written report and define policy questions where direction from the City Council is needed. If anyone has any suggestions and/or recommendations please contact Ed Eames.

Ed polled the members present for a list of Workshop attendees. Those confirming they would be in attendance were: Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Jose Luise Barraza, Marilyn Jost, Mary Beth Randall, Jan Carmichael, Jan Kaftan, and Jon Elam.

Additional Member Items/Announcements

- Alex Morrow presented a sidewalk issue (lack of) on 5th Street (Between Woodward and Braly and Braley to Hamilton). Jon Elam indicated he'd check into it and get back with an answer.
- Jose Luise Barraza updated members on the Human Relations Commission appointment or lack thereof. The ADA Advisory Council agreed that the disabled community should be represented on the Commission. Jose secured the application forms and a number of members applied. However, two of the members who applied live in Council District No. 2 and it appears there is an obstacle. Council Member Calhoun has never appointed anyone to the Commission and does not plan to fill that seat. Jose inquired as to what other alternatives the Advisory Council has? Discussion ensued.

Jon Elam suggested this issue would be best presented at the City Council Workshop stating that the disabled community needs to be represented all across the board on Boards and Commissions of the City. Perhaps Council Member Calhoun would feel differently about filling the seat on the Human Relations Commission if he knows he's appointing someone with disability concerns.

- Tony Eames inquired about the status of the ADA Hotline. Jon Elam would have information at the next meeting. Jon Elam also reported the braille signs for the bathrooms at Fresno City Hall have arrived.

Adjournment

There being no additional "Member Items" the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council is scheduled for **AUGUST 6, 2004.**

REMINDER: There is no meeting in July 2004.